

UND 2000 CIRP (Cooperative Institutional Research Program)

New Freshmen Survey

Prepared By: The Office of the Registrar

March 30, 2001

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The number of new freshmen enrolled at the University of North Dakota in the Fall Semester of 2000 totaled 1,837. While participating in “Getting Started” during the summer of 2000, 65% of the students completed the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey (APPENDIX A).

CIRP is a national study of the American higher education system sponsored by the American Council on Education and administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. The findings of the study are given in APPENDIX B, with comparative nationally formed data for public universities. Below is a discussion of some of the 2000 findings comparing UND 2000 freshmen with their national counterparts.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of the respondents to the 2000 CIRP New Freshmen survey were white (97.5%) eighteen years olds (58.4%). Males (50%) and females (50%) were represented equally. Twenty-one percent of the new freshmen were from areas less than 51 miles away from UND, while 16.7 % were 51 to 100 miles from home, and 62.2% lived over 100 miles away. Most of them graduated from high school in the previous spring (98.2%). Nearly half (46.1%) of the respondents reported that their average high school grades were A-, A, or A+. Approximately eighty-one percent came from full families with the average income of \$60,000-\$74,999 (18.4%). Nearly all respondents were US citizens (99.5%) or permanent residents (0.2%). More than 99% claimed English as their native tongue.

PROBABLE FIELDS OF STUDY

One of the questions asked to 2000 UND new freshmen was about the major field of study they were likely to pursue. The results of the study showed that in comparison with their national counterparts (10.6%), only 5.2% of UND new freshmen intended to major in *Arts & Humanities*.

UND respondents were three times less likely to consider English or Fine & Applied Arts. A wide gap was observed between the number of UND (0.4%) and national women (2.6%) intending to become a journalist, while only 0.4% of UND men compared with 1.3% of the national group were willing to connect their life with music.

Similar to the findings of 1999, the survey of 2000 showed that UND freshmen were half less likely than their national counterparts (7.6%) to choose a major among *Biological Sciences*. An interesting tendency was identified in the area of *Environmental Science*: at the national level, the popularity of the major has undergone a decrease on 0.2% since 1999 (0.8%), while at UND, more freshmen have become interested in this area (0.5% in 2000 vs. 0.3% in 1999).

There was a little difference between the UND group (14.8%) and the national group (16.8%) in the overall number of students willing to pursue *Business* as a field of study. However, UND students were less likely to choose *Management* (2.1% UND vs. 3.1% National), *Business Administration* (3.0% UND vs. 3.9% National) or *International Business* (0.1% UND vs. 1.6% National) for specialization, while at the same time, more interest was expressed in *Accounting* (2.6% UND vs. 2.2% National). There was also a slight variation between the national and the UND groups on the basis of gender in the field: higher than average percentages of UND females turned out to be interested in *Accounting* (3.0% UND vs. 2.2% National) and *Finance* (1.2% UND vs. 1.1% National). However, the general tendency of 1999 for UND female freshmen to be more interested in *Business* occupations than their national counterparts seemed to have declined.